

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01  
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P 021816Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2814  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, ICEM, UNHCR, AO, PO  
SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: LISBON 5557

1. IN CONVERSATION TODAY WITH RANKING UNHCR OFFICIAL  
IN GENEVA (PROTECTION DIVISION CHIEF, JAEGER), MISOFF  
RAISED SUBJECT OF POTENTIAL REFUGEE RETURNEES TO ANGOLA,  
MENTIONING CUNHA'S LOW-LEVEL, INFORMAL APPROACH TO US.  
MISOFF INQUIRED WHETHER UNHCR MIGHT HAVE MADE SIMILAR  
INQUIRIES TO OTHER POTENTIALLY INTERESTED DONORS, SPECI-  
FICALLY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

2. JAEGER REPLIED THAT UNHCR HAD MADE SOME INITIAL  
APPROACHES TO UNSPECIFIED WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,  
WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH SOME INTEREST, BUT NO POSI-  
TIVE RESPONSES THUS FAR. ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES (VON  
ARNIM) INTERJECTED THAT IN AT LEAST TWO CASES, THE U.K.  
AND THE NETHERLANDS, UNHCR WAS RETICENT TO APPLY TOO MUCH  
PRESSURE, IN VIEW OF THEIR ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBU-  
TIONS TO ANGOLAN RELIEF RELATIVE TO THEIR CONTRIBUTORY  
CAPACITIES. THEY DID OBSERVE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME EUROPEAN  
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COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE  
TOWARDS THE REPATRIATION OF ANGOLANS NOW IN ZAMBIA WHO  
HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND. IT WAS  
MENTIONED THAT COSTS OF REPATRIATION IN THESE CASES WERE  
OF A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER ORDER THAN  
FROM PORTUGAL.

3. JAEGER COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE COSTS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE PRESENT GROUP ARE OF REASONABLE PROPORTIONS, THEY COULD MOUNT RAPIDLY SHOULD MORE ANGOLAN REFUGEES DECIDE TO RETURN HOME. FOR INSTANCE, SHOULD MOST OF THE 7,000 NOW IN PORTUGAL SO ELECT, COSTS FOR THEIR TRANSPORTATION ALONE WOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$2 MILLION, WHICH MIGHT NECESSITATE A SPECIAL APPEAL. THIS WAS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION, JAEGER CONTINUED, BUT INDICATED THAT THE POSSIBLE REPATRIATION UNDER CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE ONLY THE FIRST ELEMENT OF THE PROBLEM. ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER UNHCR MIGHT CONSIDER FURTHER APPROACHES TO POTENTIAL WESTERN EUROPEAN DONORS, JAEGER RESPONDED THAT UNHCR WOULD GIVE THIS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

4. AS CONCERNS THE NUMBERS, JAEGER STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ABOUT 1,700 HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR REPATRIATION, WHILE THE PORTUGUESE DESK OFFICER (KOULISCHER) ADDED THAT, OF THIS NUMBER, THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE RETURN OF 1,008. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL HAS, ON OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, BEEN A TACIT ONE, GIVEN THE BLOC, AND THIS COULD AGAIN BE THE CASE WITH THE ANGOLAN RETURNEES.

5. COMMENT: MISOFF HAD CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT JAEGER, WHO ASKED HIS UNHCR COLLEAGUES TO REMAIN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AFTER THE MEETING, IS GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO POSSIBILITY OF AGAIN APPROACHING EUROPEAN STATES FOR THIS PURPOSE. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, REFUGEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** SREF, AO, PO, UNHCR, ICEM  
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